(b)if so, which are the districts selected for the implementation Of the above scheme in Karnataka;

(c)the steps so far taken to implement this scheme in these districts;

(d)the number of persons benefited so far in Karnataka;

(e)whether there is any representation from Karnataka to take up the implementation in other districts like Gulbaraga, Gadag, Bijapur, Bangalore (Rural) and Chamarajanagar; and

(f) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c), (e) and (f) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005 has been notified in the Gazette of India on 7th September, 2005. The notification for applicability of the Act is yet to be issued under Section 1 (3) of the Act. The Act is likely to be implemented in 200 districts of the country in the first phase of its implementation. The process of identification of the districts has so far not been completed. Requests have been received from Karnataka to include 10 more districts of the State under the Scheme. No specific requests for inclusion of districts, namely, Gulbarga, Gadag, Bijapur, Bangalore (Rural) and Chamarajanagar have been received in the Ministry.

(d) Question does not arise.

Monitoring of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

868. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to monitor the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which has been implemented in 200 districts in the country; and

(b) if so, whether the Rural Development Ministry or the Planning Commission is the monitoring agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The National Rural Employment Gurantee Act (NREGA), 2005 has been notified in the Gazette of India on 7th September, 2005. The notification for applicability of the Act is yet to be issued under Section 1(3) of the Act. The 200 districts where the Act is likely to be implemented in the first

phase have not yet been identified. At the Central Government level, the Ministry of Rural Development will monitor the implementation of the Act and the Planning Commission can review its implementation. In additional, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 shall be monitored through Central Employment Guarantee Council in accordance with Section 11 of the Act.

Payment of wages to workforce under NREGS

869. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT
be pleased to state:

(a) whether demands have been made for payment of wages to workforce to be engaged under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme through cheques instead of each in order to avoid underpayment or exploitation;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (b) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005 has been notified in the Gazette of India on 7th September, 2005. The notification for applicability of the Act is yet to be issued under Section 1(3) of the Act. The details regarding payment of wages to workforce to be engaged under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme have not yet been finalised.

Fund allocation for various rural development schemes

870. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the allocation of central funds to State Governments on various rural development schemes during the last three years; scheme-wise, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the schemes have benefited the targeted sections;

(c) if so, the scheme-wise details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that many States failed to utilize the funds earmarked for the specific scheme; and